

From: Chip Moore
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/24/02 12:36pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I have been quiet on this topic for some time, but enough is enough. I have worked in systems for over twenty years. I am not employed by Microsoft, although I am a share holder, 100 shares I think. I do not have my Masters or Doctorate. I am just a system analyst I support hundreds of computers. I have spoken to numerous other analysts and support professionals. Almost all of them universally say that there is no way within their organization to mandate what browser an employee uses. There never has been nor will there ever be. All you have to do is go to www.netscape.com and download the current browser. I have done it. I have tried it out. I do not think it is that good a product. It is too complex to effectively configure and use. I do not like it.

If Netscape aka AOL thinks that they have been wronged it is their own fault as they have done little advertising in the last five years and it has become a non issue, like 8 tracks, and records. The Netscape purchase was a bad decision on AOL's part and if any one should be complaining, it is users who should complain about how Netscape is forced down your throat. Here are two examples, I got a CD with manuals from CISCO system several years ago and you could not even install the product to use until you put Netscape on your machine, is that monopolistic, further I am a Verizon DSL customer and they require Netscape on their DSL installation. My question is I do not see Microsoft requiring you to run Internet Explorer to do things on their web site. It appears that AOL is doing the exact same thing that they accuse Microsoft of doing.

Finally, I am not happy with the AOL instant messenger, here is a service that allows you to chat, nothing more and they expect you to pay to do it. I can understand that you need an internet connection, which I have, but why should I pay 9.99 a month to chat. Again this seems predatory and monopolistic. From my perspective AOL does many of the same things they accuse Microsoft of doing AOL just lacks the capital to be able to carry it off that Microsoft does.

If the Department of Justice and the Attorney Generals were sincere about resolving this case, they would talk to their own IT staffs and some major companies like IBM and see how they came to their browser decision and see if there is any way to enforce a standard. The answer is probably no there is no way to enforce a standard, so get over it, close the case, and if you want to spend some more money spend it looking at AOL, it will not be as flashy but you will find a lot of the same issues.

But really enough is enough

